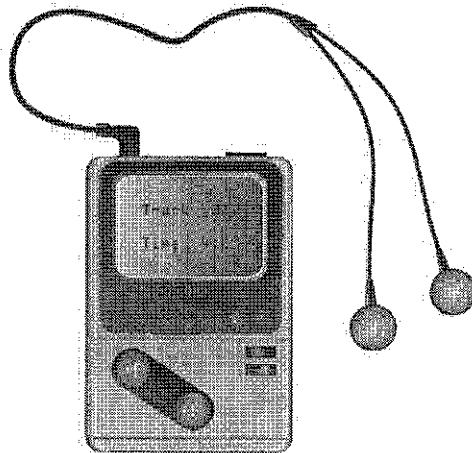


Mastery Quiz #2 - Question Set | 14 Questions | 14 Points

Pool Party Predicament

by Bob Jacobson



- 1 I was in a hurry when I left for Michelle's pool party, but not *that* big a hurry. So I really don't have an excuse for grabbing the wrong one. But I did grab the wrong one, and by the time I realized my mistake, it was too late to fix it. I was about to arrive at the most important party of the year with my dad's mp3 player instead of my own. They must have been sitting right next to each other on the kitchen counter, and I hadn't paid enough attention as I rushed out the door. Now my life—at least my life as a reasonably popular person rather than a complete social outcast—was over.
- 2 You must understand that in my crowd, the normal rules about how to judge whether somebody is cool don't apply. Nobody cares what you wear. Nobody cares how many colors you've dyed your hair. Nobody even cares whether you have a boyfriend. It's all about the tunes. If you have the right tunes, and a lot of them, by the newest, hottest performers, loaded into your mp3 player—we call 'em "jam gadgets"—then you are cool. No questions asked. It doesn't matter what you look like or how well you do in school . . . all that is irrelevant. It's the tunes, and nothing but the tunes.
- 3 "Hey, Taylor, welcome to my bash," Michelle greeted me with a hug as I walked through the gate into the municipal pool, which Michelle's mom had reserved for the party. "Where's your gadget?"
- 4 Uh-oh. I had to think fast. "Right here in my . . . wait a sec, it doesn't seem to be in my bag. Phooey! I, um, must have left it at home."
- 5 "Oh, well, I guess you'll just have to hang out at the loser table all day," Michelle said. "Just kidding, of course," she added, though I wasn't entirely convinced.
- 6 After changing into my swimsuit, I emerged from the locker room and was walking over to the table where Michelle and a few other friends—of the decidedly non-loser variety—were sitting. I was about to grab the only remaining empty seat, when suddenly my feet got tangled up. I tripped and

sprawled face first on the grass. My bag flew off my shoulder, strewing its contents on the ground, including my keys, my hair brush, my cell phone, and, most horrifyingly, my dad's mp3 player.

- 7 "Hey, look!" shouted Michelle. "Your jam's made it to the party after all!"
- 8 "Uh, yeah, looks that way," I replied, trying to mask my dismay.
- 9 "Let's crank it up and see what you got," Michelle said, hooking the bogus player up to the speakers.
- 10 I braced myself for what was likely to be the worst moment of my life to date. But no amount of bracing could prepare me for what came next.
- 11 "Hey, what is this stuff?" Michelle asked nobody in particular as she scrolled through my dad's collection of classic rock, R&B, and new wave from the 1970s and 80s. "I've never heard of any of these artists. No hip-hop? No trance? No emo?" Eying me suspiciously, she asked, "Where did you get these tunes, Taylor?"
- 12 Before I could answer, or even begin to think about what lie to answer with, she started randomly playing the songs. And then a strange thing happened. Amazingly, I found that I didn't hate them very much. In fact, the sounds coming out of the speakers were kind of good, in a so-out-of-style-it-makes-it-stylish sort of way. I might even go so far as to say I really liked it. Even more amazingly, everybody else seemed to be having the same reaction.
- 13 "Seriously, Taylor, this is some wild music," Michelle said, bobbing her head to the beat. "Where'd you dig it up?"
- 14 I realized I didn't have to think up a lie after all. "It's from my dad's collection," I said. "Isn't it great? I knew that people of such exquisite taste as yourselves would be able to appreciate it." Okay, maybe that last part was totally a lie. But unexpected social triumphs like this don't come along every day.

1

Read this dictionary entry.

bash (BASH) *v.* **1.** to crush with a heavy blow **2.** to beat up severely **3.** to criticize in a harsh way *n.* **4.** a heavy blow **5.** *Slang* a party or other lively celebration

In which of these sentences is *bash* used *most* closely to the way that it is used in the story?

- ☐ A. I wish that you wouldn't *bash* my favorite movie that way!
- ☐ B. The gang members threatened to *bash* the members of a rival gang.
- ☐ C. Abby's graduation *bash* included a bounce house, a chocolate fountain, and a mariachi band.
- ☐ D. During the night, someone took a hammer and proceeded to *bash* the windshields of several cars.

Passages/Stimuli

Pool Party Predicament

Item #119510

2

Think about the music on the mp3 player that Taylor brings to the party. It seems *most* likely that

- ☐ A. Taylor and her friends are learning to appreciate country music.
- ☐ B. Taylor's dad does not share his daughter's love for the current music scene.
- ☐ C. Michelle would be the teen who probably would like that music the most.
- ☐ D. Michelle will want to keep the mp3 player for herself.

Passages/Stimuli

Pool Party Predicament

Item #134699

Which two of these details support the judgment that Michelle is a rather bossy person?

- I. Michelle sets the rules for what people can wear to her pool party.
- II. Michelle demands to see Taylor's "jam gadget" as soon as Taylor arrives.
- III. When the hidden mp3 player falls out of Taylor's bag, Michelle is the one who snatches it up and connects it to the speakers.
- IV. Michelle likes the music that is on the mp3 player that Taylor has with her.

- ☐ A. I and II
- ☐ B. I and III
- ☐ C. II and III
- ☐ D. III and IV

Passages/Stimuli
Pool Party Predicament

Item #143453

4

What causes Taylor to realize that she does not have to lie about the music on the mp3 player?

- ☐ A. She finds out that she had grabbed the right one after all.
- ☐ B. She knows that it's always wrong to lie.
- ☐ C. Her friends like the music on her dad's player.
- ☐ D. She discovers that nobody cares about the music.

Passages/Stimuli

Pool Party Predicament

Item #67260

5

In the last paragraph, why does Taylor praise the music?

- ☐ A. She's proud of her father's musical taste.
- ☐ B. She's mostly interested in pleasing her friends.
- ☐ C. She doesn't really like her dad's music that much.
- ☐ D. Her friends have excellent taste in music.

Passages/Stimuli

Pool Party Predicament

Item #99496

6

Which of the following is most like the teens' reaction to the music on Taylor's dad's mp3?

- ☐ A. Film students who are used to blockbuster movies with many special effects find much to appreciate in black-and-white films made 60–75 years ago.
- ☐ B. A child who claims to hate broccoli finally tries some—and spits it out in disgust.
- ☐ C. Parents who are very strict with their own children permit visiting children to do as they please.
- ☐ D. A teacher who always has wanted to visit Europe finally gets to do so, and it is the trip of a lifetime.

Passages/Stimuli

Pool Party Predicament

Item #119062

The following is a rough draft of a student writing assignment, which may contain errors.

- 1 February 2 is known as Groundhog Day. Groundhog Day is the day that, according to superstition, the groundhog, which sleeps underground during the winter, leaves its burrow. If the groundhog sees its shadow, as the story goes, it ducks back into its burrow and goes to sleep. It sleeps for six more weeks. This means there will be six more weeks of winter. On the other hand, if the groundhog does not see its shadow, they stay out of the burrow. The meaning of this is an early spring.
- 2 However, the groundhog's predictions leaves much to be desired. According to the National Geographic Service, groundhogs have been right only 28 percent of the time. Nevertheless, people continue to watch the ground every February 2. They watch with great anticipation. They want to see what the future will bring. While a verdict of an early spring is usually a cause for celebration, a verdict of a late spring usually means a lot of grumbling and grouching.
- 3 There are many groundhog clubs in the United States today. Most of them are located in areas where farming have been widespread, such as Pennsylvania. One of these Clubs—the Sun Prairie Club—is located in the state of Wisconsin. The club will send you a “groundhog birth certificate” if you were born on February 2.

If the groundhog sees its shadow, as the story goes, it ducks back into its burrow and goes to sleep.

Read the above sentence from paragraph 1.

What is the *best* way to write this sentence?

- ☐ A. If the groundhog sees its shadow as the story goes it ducks back into its burrow and goes to sleep.
- ☐ B. If the groundhog sees its shadow; as the story goes, it ducks back into its burrow and goes to sleep.
- ☐ C. If the groundhog sees its shadow, as the story goes—it ducks back into its burrow and goes to sleep.
- ☐ D. Leave as is.

Passages/Stimuli

Rough Draft of a Student Writing Assignment

Item #151447

They watch with great antecipation.

Read the above sentence from paragraph 2.

What is the correct way to spell the underlined word?

- ☐ A. anticipation
- ☐ B. anticipaton
- ☐ C. anticiption
- ☐ D. Leave as is.

Passages/Stimuli

Rough Draft of a Student Writing Assignment

Item #134323

Groundhog Day is the day that, according to superstition, the groundhog, which sleeps underground during the winter, leaves its burrow.

Read the above sentence from paragraph 1.

What is the *best* way to write this sentence?

- ☐ A. Groundhog Day is the day, that according to superstition, the groundhog which sleeps underground, during the winter leaves its burrow.
- ☐ B. Groundhog Day is the day that according to superstition the groundhog which sleeps underground during the winter, leaves its burrow.
- ☐ C. Groundhog Day is the day that (according to superstition) the groundhog, which sleeps underground during the winter, leaves its burrow.
- ☐ D. Leave as is.

Passages/Stimuli

Rough Draft of a Student Writing Assignment

Item #122237

On the other hand, if the groundhog does not see its shadow, they stay out of the burrow.

Read the above sentence from paragraph 1.

What is the correct way to write this sentence?

- ☐ A. On the other hand, if the groundhog does not see its shadow, they stayed out of the burrow.
- ☐ B. On the other hand, if the groundhog does not see its shadow, it stays out of the burrow.
- ☐ C. On the other hand, if the groundhog does not see their shadow, they stay out of the burrow.
- ☐ D. Leave as is.

Passages/Stimuli

Rough Draft of a Student Writing Assignment

Item #109843

11

Most of them are located in areas
where farming have been widespread,
such as Pennsylvania.

Read the above sentence from paragraph 3.

What is the correct way to write this sentence?

- ☐ A. Most of them is located in areas where farming was widespread, such as Pennsylvania.
- ☐ B. Most of them are located in areas where farming have been widespread such as Pennsylvania.
- ☐ C. Most of them are located in areas where farming is widespread, such as Pennsylvania.
- ☐ D. Leave as is.

Passages/Stimuli

Rough Draft of a Student Writing Assignment

Item #82976



12

While a verdict of an early spring is usually a cause for celebration, a verdict of a late spring usually means a lot of grumbling and grouching.

Read the above sentence from paragraph 2.

What is the correct way to write this sentence?

- ☐ A. While a verdict of an early spring is usually a cause for celebration, if the verdict is a late, spring usually means a lot of grumbling and grouching.
- ☐ B. While a verdict of an early spring is usually a cause for celebration, a lot of grumbling and grouching occurs as the result of a late spring verdict.
- ☐ C. While an early spring verdict is usually a cause for celebration, a verdict of a spring that is late usually means a lot of grumbling and grouching.
- ☐ D. Leave as is.

Passages/Stimuli

Rough Draft of a Student Writing Assignment

Item #9208